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INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
CENTRAL ANALYSIS RESEARCH UNIT

09 February 2006

INTELLIGENCE NOTE

Subject: NYC Mosque Statements on Danish Cartoon Controversy

Chronological Order

02/08/06: Islamic Society Of Mid Manhattan, 154 East 55 Street, New York, NY.

- Upon completion of the prayer led by **Sheik Ahmed Dewidar**, a speech was given by Abdela Adhami (phonetic spelling). Adhami spoke about the cartoon, stating Muslims should just ignore it and not become violent over it. The source ascertained that Adhami is a teacher at a university in New Jersey.

02/08/2006: Bronx Muslim Center, 702 Rhinelander Avenue, Bronx, NY.

- Upon completion of the Isha prayer service, **Sheik Hamud** spoke about the cartoons, stating “we have to do something about it, but not what those people are doing back home. They are burning and destroying stuff and they should know that the prophet does not want something like that to happen. We should follow the prophet in the best way we can, boycott anything that was made in Denmark, don’t buy or sell anything that has to do with them.” He also stated, “We should send letters to our legal organizations and explain how we feel and demand that they do something about it.

02/07/06: Iqra Mosque, 35-54 73rd Street, Jackson Heights, Queens

Meeting with Islamic Thinkers Society

- **Akbar Khattak** talked about holding a demonstration at which the members of **ITS** will burn the Danish and German flags in order to make a political statement against these countries as well as other European countries who have “violated the sanctity of the Muslim faith.” Khattak further added that A. Islam will e-mail the source a map of the locations for Danish and German Embassies so the source can locate the precinct of concern and get a sound device permit for the demonstration.

02/07/06: 17th Precinct

- [REDACTED] to get a sound device permit so that the **Islamic Thinkers Society** can conduct a demonstration on February 15, 2006, 1500 to 1730 hrs. Khattak stated ITS wants to give a short speech outside the Danish Consulate, 885 2nd Ave, Manhattan. After this brief speech the group will drag a Danish flag to the German consulate located at 871 1st Ave in Manhattan, where they will demonstrate for approximately 1 hour 30 minutes. Khattak stated that at some point in front of the German mission the group will burn the Danish and German flags.

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02/07/06 Jamaica Muslim Center, 85-37 168th Street, Queens, NY.

- **Imam Shamsi Ali** spoke about the violence that has erupted overseas in regard to the cartoons. He condemned the pictures but said that we should hope for the violence to end. He said that most non-Muslims are ignorant to Islam and do not understand the outrage that these pictures cause. He further said that if the violence continues it will show non-Muslims that Muslims have no patience or tolerance.

02/07/06: SOI's conversation with Mohammad Zubair Yaqub

- During their conversation, Zubair received a phone call from "Suleman" in Toronto. SOI was only able to hear Yaqub's end of the conversation, which entailed Yaqub asking Suleman if Muslims were protesting in Toronto over the Danish cartoons and stated that the war was started against Islam. At this point SOI interrupted and asked what should Muslim's do? Yaqub's response to SOI was "Inqlab" which SOI believes to mean fight. Yaqub continued his conversation with Suleman informing him that America is like a lion and Muslims are like a pigeon. They (Muslims) are closing their eyes thinking that the cat is not going to eat them.

02/06/2006: Iqra Mosque, 35-54 73rd Street, Jackson Heights, Queens.

- **Akbar Khattak** discussed the demonstrations that will take place in front of a few consulates, including the Danish, German, and French consulates in Manhattan possibly on Wednesday February 15th, 2006 during working hours. Khattak asked **Ariful Islam** to print out the maps of the following consulates and forward it to the source so he can take that information with him to the police station when he goes to apply for the sound permit. Khattak stated these countries have disrespected us by making fun of the prophet and Islam.

02/06/06: Masjid Dawudi, 143 State Street, Brooklyn NY.

- **Sheik Abdalla** spoke about his anger towards the cartoons, stating all Muslims should speak out for all to hear, but not become violent over this issue. There are different views by Muslims in all Masjids about this.

02/04/06: Jamaica Muslim Center, 85-37 168th Street, Queens, NY.

- **Shaykh Ibrahim Negm**, of the Islamic Learning Foundation, currently serving as a full time Imam and director at the Islamic Center of South Shore in New York. Negm spoke of the cartoons, which resulted in several Muslim organizations around the world condemning the act by calling it "an attack on the Muslim and Islamic" world.
- After the sermon, **Brother Abu Yusuf** stated that Negm was calling for a demonstration across the United Nations condemning the cartoons.

02/04/06: Islamic Learning Foundation, 15-02 College Point Blvd, Queens NY

- **Sheikh Ibrahim Negm** spoke about the burning of the Embassy in Syria and throughout the Middle East in regard to the cartoons. Negm condemned the cartoon and stated that it has led to a lot of violence and that many unexpected things might occur because of this.

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02/04/06: Dar Al Dawa Mosque, 35-13 23rd Avenue, Queens, NY.

- Dr. **Faragalla Abouatattal** led the prayer, then spoke about the cartoons, stating that this has happened before. The source provided a flyer that contained a letter voicing outrage over the cartoons, which provided addresses to send the letter (Prime Minister of Denmark etc) and a link to the letter:
www.glexim.com/letter.htm.

02/03/06: Masjid Alfalah 42-12 National Street, Corona, N.Y.

- The source reported that **Zia Paracha** lead the prayer service and spoke about the cartoons; how disrespectful it is to Muslims for the artist to even depicting Mohamed in a picture. Paracha advised those in attendance to speak out and condemn the European media, but not to resort to violence.

02/03/06: Muslim Center Of New York 137-58 Geranium Avenue, Flushing, N.Y.

- **Mohammad Tariq Sherwani** led the prayer service and urged those in attendance to participate in a demonstration at the United Nations on Sunday (02/12/06). Sherwani explained that the demonstration is to express outrage at the cartoons. Sherwani also announced that a guest speaker from Boston, **Malik Farooq**, will be leading the Jumaa prayer service next Friday as well as participating in the demonstration at the U.N.

02/03/06: Al Iman Mosque 24-30 Steinway Street, Corona, NY

- **Samy Massoud** conducted the service and discussed the cartoons, stating, "They call it freedom of speech and I call it freedom of disgust, low manners and filthy behaviors." He continued that one could boycott them by not purchasing their products and to contact politicians.

02/03/06: Makki Mosque, 1089 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

- **Iman Sabir** talked about the cartoons, stating it was wrong to print that sort of negativity about Mohammed and the Muslim faithful. The Imam asked all the worshippers that on Friday, February 10, 2006 at 1400 hrs to attend a peaceful protest in front of the Makki Mosque.

02/03/06: ICCNY 1711 3rd Avenue, New York NY.

- **Imam Omar Abu Namous** told stories of the Muhammad, stating that the Prophet was a man of good character, adding that the cartoons are an insult to all Muslims and he asked all the attendees to support the current boycott against European nations.

02/03/06: Jamaica Muslim Center, 85-37 168 Street, Jamaica NY

- At approximately 1310hrs a few members of the Jamaica Muslim Center Board addressed the crowd about the cartoons, stating that it should be condemned and the artist and the foreign press should be blamed for publishing it.
- **Imam Shamsi Ali** brought up the topic of the cartoon, condemning them. He announced a rally that was to take place on Sunday (02/05/06) near the United Nations. He asked that everyone to attend if possible and reminded everyone to keep their poise if they can make it.

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02/03/2006: Makki Mosque, 1089 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

- **Hafiz Sabir** talked about the cartoons, stating that he is very angry and asked all worshippers to join him in the protest rally that will take place in front of Makki Masjid following the Juma prayer on Friday February 10th. He informed that other mosques in NYC area have been sent an invitation for this protest.
- Afterward, Sabir also announced that there will also be a protest on Sunday, February 5th from 1100 to 1300hrs in front of the United Nations. He stated a bus will leave from the mosque for any females that would like to attend. Males will have to find their own transportation to the event.

02/02/06: ICCNY, 1711 3rd Avenue, New York, NY.

- **Imam Shamsi Ali** stated that the cartoons portraying Muhammad with explosives in his turban are insulting Islam and they are insulting all Muslims. He added that we should support the current boycott against products from these countries.

01/30/2006: Iqra Mosque, 35-53 73rd St., Jackson Heights, NY

Meeting with Islamic Thinkers Society

- **Akbar Khattak** talked about the cartoons, stating some groups in Denmark are planning to desecrate the Quran in public. Khattak added that some naive Muslims think these kinds of actions by non Muslims are against Islam but in reality these actions are helping non Muslims to read and learn about Islam in great depth.

Danish Cartoon Chronology

September 17, 2005: Politiken, a Danish newspaper, reports that Kaare Bluitgen, a writer, cannot find an illustrator for a book about the life of Muhammad, because artists fear reprisals from Islamic extremists.

September 30, 2005: In response, *Jyllands-Posten*, a right of centre newspaper, asks artists to draw Muhammad as they imagine him and publishes 12 cartoons of the prophet.

October 14, 2005: Up to 5,000 people stage a protest outside the offices of *Jyllands-Posten*.

October 19, 2005: Ambassadors from ten Muslim countries request a meeting with Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the Danish Prime Minister, over the cartoons. He refuses to meet them.

November-December 2005: A delegation from Danish Islamic groups visit the Middle East to spread publicity about the cartoons. Rumors circulate and additional images, not originally published in *Jyllands-Posten*, are attributed to the newspaper

January 10, 2006: Cartoons reprinted by Magazinet, a Norwegian Christian newspaper

January 26, 2006: Saudi Arabia recalls its ambassador and initiates boycott of Danish goods.

January 27, 2006: Thousands denounce the cartoons during Friday prayers in Iraq.

January 28, 2006: The Denmark-based Arla Dairy Group places adverts in Middle Eastern newspapers to try to stop boycott of its produce.

January 29, 2006: *Jyllands-Posten* prints a statement in Arabic saying the drawings were published in line with freedom of expression and not a campaign against Islam. Palestinians burn Danish flags and Libya announces it will close its embassy in Denmark. Danes told to be vigilant in the Middle East.

January 30, 2006: EU says it will take World Trade Organization action if the boycott persists. Masked gunmen in storm EU office in Gaza.

January 31, 2006: Danish Imams accept statements from *Jyllands-Posten* and the Prime Minister, and say are surprised at the extent of the protests. Saudi hospitals refuse to buy Danish insulin.

February 1, 2006: Newspapers in Germany, Italy, Spain, Netherlands published one or more of the cartoons. France Soir publishes all 12 and a new cartoon of its own. The editor is fired by the newspaper's French-Egyptian owner. Syria withdraws ambassador to Denmark.

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February 2, 2006: Gunmen repeated protests in Gaza. Mr Rasmussen appears on Al-Arabiya, a Saudi news network, to try and calm situation. The Jordanian newspaper Al-Shihan prints the drawings - the editor is sacked, and ordered to apologize. Peter Mandelson, the EU Trade Commissioner, says the boycott must end.

February 3, 2006: The International Association of Muslim Scholars calls for a "day of anger" across the world. 50,000 protest in Gaza. Muslims outside the Danish Embassy in London call for execution of those who insult Islam. El Pais, Spain's leading newspaper, reprints a drawing, which shows the prophet made of words saying: "I must not draw Muhummad".

February 4, 2006: Mobs in Damascus attack the Norwegian, Danish, Swedish and French embassies but are beaten off by riot police. Protesters, including a man dressed as a suicide bomber, gather for a second day in London.

February 5, 2006: Demonstrators set fire to the Danish Embassy in Beirut, overwhelming Lebanese security forces. A protester dies, and America and Lebanon blame Syrians for the riot. The Lebanese Interior Minister offered his resignation. Around 4,000 protest in Afghanistan. Iran withdraws its ambassador from Copenhagen.

February 6, 2006: Protester killed in Afghanistan as demonstrations take place in Kabul and the city of Mihtarlam. Crowds gather in Srinigar, the capital of Kashmir, and three cities in Indonesia. Pressure mounts in London to prosecute protesters for inciting violence.

Feb. 7, 2006: Several hundred protesters, some armed, storm the NATO base in Maymana, the headquarters of a provincial reconstruction team of about 100 Norwegian and Finnish troops. Three Afghans are killed in the melée.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen calls the unrest over the caricatures a "growing global crisis." "I want to appeal and reach out to all people and countries in the Muslim world. Let us work together in the spirit of mutual respect and tolerance," he says.

Feb. 8, 2006: The Ulama Council, a leading group of Islamic clerics, calls for an end to violent demonstrations. The Council stated, "We condemn the cartoons but this does not justify violence".

Police fire into the air to disperse hundreds of protesters outside the U.S. military base in Qalat, Afghanistan. Police then fire into the crowd killing four and wounding 20.

Report by: [REDACTED]
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DCAM/Events/Danish Cartoon Chronology

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